(c) Due to unfavourable weather conditions during the last three years, in a row, fertilizer consumption has been below the targetted levels. Therefore, the stocks of indigenous fertilizers have gone up, leading to excessive supply of urea. To provide relief to the industry, steps have been taken to ensure price discipline in the sale of fertilizers. Imported stocks are not released for sale, as far as possible, so long as indigenous stocks can meet the entire demand Besides, the import of nitrogenous and phosphatic fertilizers during the year has been drastically reduced.

Sugar Output in the Country

707. SHRI DINKARRAO GOVINDRAO PATIL: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is likely to be any short fall in sugar output in the country due to the recent drought; and

(b) if so, the extent thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT): (a) and (b) Sugar is an agro-based industry and sugar production depends on various factors, including drought conditions etc. The sugar production during the first fortnight of current 1987-88 season upto 15th October was 0.29 lakh tonnes as against 0.19 lakh tonnes on the corresponding date last year showing an increase of 52.6 per cent and thus it is too early to assess the extent of loss in production due to drought conditions Sufficient stock of sugar is available to meet the domestic requirements of the coun-

Scheme to Provide Facilities to Farmers through N.C.D.C.

708. SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have under consideration any scheme to provide adequate credit facilities to the farming community;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) whether the proposed scheme is to be implemented through the National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC)?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA): (a) to (c) Through schemes on (i) non-overdue cover assistance to Cooperative Banks (ii) on contribution to Agricultural Credit Stabilisation Fund of Cooperative Banks and (iii) scheme for contributing to the debenture of Land Development Banks, Government of India are trying to provide for larger credit flow to Agriculture. No new scheme in this regard is under consideration. None of the existing three schemes mentioned above is implemented through NCDC

Assistance to Drought-Prone State

709. DR. BAPU KALDATE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the drought-prone areas as on the 15th October, 1987, State-wise;

(b) the amount sanctioned to each such State; and

(c) the austerity measures taken by the Central Government and those suggested to the States to meet the drought situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI RAMANAND YADAV): (a) A statement